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CLAIMS:

1. A recombinant expression vector comprising a gene of interest and a selectable marker gene, wherein the selectable marker gene is arranged downstream of the gene of interest and a stop codon associated with the gene of interest is spaced from a start codon of said selectable marker gene at a distance which is sufficient to ensure that said selectable marker protein is expressed from the corresponding mRNA as a result of translation reinitiation.

2. A recombinant expression vector according to claim 1 wherein the vector is a viral vector.

3. A recombinant expression vector according to claim 2 wherein the vector is a retroviral vector.

4. A recombinant expression vector according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the gene of interest is included as part of a viral packaging construct.

5. A recombinant expression vector according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the number of nucleotides in the space between the stop codon of the gene of interest and the start codon of the selectable marker is in the range of from 20 to 200 nucleotides.

6. A recombinant expression vector according to claim 5 wherein the number of nucleotides in the space between the stop codon of the gene of interest and the start codon of the selectable marker is in the range of from 60 to 80 nucleotides.

7. A process for producing a cell line in which a gene of interest is expressed, which process comprises:

transforming host cells with an expression vector

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according to any one of the claims 1 to 6; and

selectable those cells where expression of the selection marker gene may be detected.

8. A process according to claim 7 wherein the host cell is a eukaryotic cell.

9. A host cell transformed with a recombinant expression vector according to any one of the claims 1 to 6.

10. A retroviral packaging cell line comprising a host cell transformed with a first and a second recombinant expression vector, said first recombinant expression vector having a packaging-deficient construct comprising a viral gag-pol gene and a first selectable marker gene downstream thereof, and said second recombinant expression vector having a packaging-deficient construct comprising a viral env gene and a second selectable marker gene downstream thereof; wherein the start codon of the first and second selectable markers are spaced from the stop codons of the viral gag-pol gene and the viral env gene respectively by a distance which ensures that said selectable marker protein is expressed from the corresponding mRNA as a result of translation reinitiation.

11. A retroviral packaging cell line according to claim 10 wherein the first selectable marker is a bsr selectable marker and the second selectable marker is a phleo selectable marker.

12. A retroviral packaging cell line according to any one of claims 10 or 11 wherein the packaging-deficient construct comprising the viral gag-pol gene and first selectable marker is the CeB (SEQ ID No 2) expression construct.

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13. A retroviral packaging cell line according to any one of claims 10 or 11 wherein the packaging-deficient construct comprising the viral env gene and second selectable marker is the FBdelPASAF (SEQ ID No 5), the FBdelPMOSAF (SEQ ID No 6), the FbdelPGASAF (SEQ ID No 7), the FbdelPRDSAF (SEQ ID No 8), the FbdelPXSAF (Fig. 3), the FbdelP10A1SAF (Fig. 3), or the FBdelPVSVGSAF (Fig. 3) expression construct.

14. A retroviral packaging cell line according to any one of claims 10 or 11 wherein the recombinant expression vector is a packaging-deficient retroviral helper construct.

15. A retroviral packaging cell line according to claim 14 wherein the overlapping sequences between the genomes of the retroviral vector and the packaging-deficient construct is reduced by minimizing the extent of non-coding retroviral sequences in the packaging-deficient genome.

16. A retroviral packaging cell line according to any one of claims 10 to 15 wherein the viral gag-pol gene and the selectable marker are expressed under the control of a non-retroviral promoter.

17. A retroviral packaging cell line according to claim 16 wherein the promoter is fused to rabbit beta-1 globin intron.

18. A retroviral packaging cell line according to claim 16 or claim 17 wherein the promoter is a hCMV promoter.

19. A retroviral packaging cell line according to any one of claims 16 to claim 18 wherein the viral gag-pol gene and the selectable marker is a hCMV+intron (SEQ

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ID No3), or a hCMV+intronkaSD (SEQ ID No 4) expression construct.

20. A retroviral packaging cell line according to anyone of claims 10 to 15 wherein the viral env gene and the selectable marker are under the control of a non-retroviral promoter.

21. A retroviral packaging cell line according to claim 20 wherein the promoter is fused to rabbit beta-1 globin intron.

22. A retroviral packaging cell line according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the promoter is a hCMV promoter.

23. A retroviral packaging cell line according any one of claims 20 to 22 wherein the viral env gene and the selectable marker is a CMV10A1 (SEQ ID No 9) expression construct.

24. A retroviral packaging cell line according to any one of claims 10 to 23 wherein the cell line is the HT1080 line, the TE671 line, the 3T3 line, the 293 line or the MV-1-1U line.

25. A retroviral packaging cell line according to anyone of claims 10 to 24 wherein the retroviral packaging cells comprises human HT1080 cells and express RD114 envelopes.

26. A retroviral packaging cell line according to anyone of claims 10 to 24 wherein the retroviral packaging cells comprises human TE671 cells and express RD114 envelopes.

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27. A process for producing a retroviral packaging cell line in which a gene of interest in expressed, which process comprises:

transforming host cells with a first and a second recombinant expression vector, said first recombinant expression vector having a packaging-deficient construct comprising a viral gag-pol gene and a first selectable marker gene downstream thereof, and said second recombinant expression vector having a packaging-deficient construct comprising a viral env gene and a second selectable marker gene downstream thereof; wherein the start codon of the first and second selectable markers are spaced from the stop codons of the viral gag-pol gene and the viral env gene respectively by a distance which ensures that said selectable marker protein is expressed from the corresponding mRNA as a result of translation reinitiation;and

selecting transformed cells which express said first and/or second marker genes.

28. A packaging deficient construct for use in a process according to claim 27, which expresses a viral gag-pol gene and a selectable marker wherein a start codon of the selectable marker is spaced from a stop codon of the viral gag-pol gene by a distance which ensures that said selectable marker protein is expressed from the corresponding mRNA as a result of translation reinitiation.

29. A packaging deficient construct for use in a process according to claim 27, which expresses a viral env gene and a selectable marker gene; wherein a start codon of the selectable marker is spaced from a stop codon of the viral env gene by a distance which ensures that said selectable marker protein is

expressed from the corresponding mRNA as a result of translation reinitiation.